

## ADOPT QUILLBACK REBUILDING ANALYSES, CATCH-ONLY PROJECTIONS, AND REVISED PROJECTIONS

The Pacific Fishery Management Council (Council) process for setting groundfish harvest specifications depends on periodic assessments of the status of groundfish stocks, as well as updates to catch-only projections based on adopted assessments.

If a groundfish stock falls below a default overfished threshold level or minimum stock size threshold, a rebuilding analysis is conducted. Amendment 31 to the [Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan](#) was approved by the Council in June 2023, recommending that quillback rockfish along the U.S. west coast be defined as three separate stocks corresponding to waters off Washington, Oregon, and California. The 2021 stock assessment of quillback rockfish in California waters estimated that the population was below the overfished threshold level. Thus, a draft rebuilding analysis has been developed per the [Terms of Reference for the Groundfish Rebuilding Analysis for 2023-2024](#), to examine a range of alternative rebuilding strategies and inform harvest specification decision-making (Attachment 1).

The Scientific and Statistical Committee (SSC) reviews this information and makes a recommendation relative to the standards of 1) the best scientific information available, and 2) soundness for use in groundfish fishery management decision-making by the Council. The Council then approves projections and any rebuilding analyses used to set groundfish harvest specifications for the following biennial management period.

The SSC will review catch-only projections at this meeting for chilipepper rockfish (Attachment 2), yellowtail rockfish North of 40° 10' N. lat. (Attachment 3), vermilion rockfish South of 42° N. lat. [*anticipated by the supplemental briefing book deadline*], and revised projections for Dover sole, rex sole, and black rockfish in Oregon as requested by the Council in September 2023 (Attachment 4). They will also review rebuilding analyses for quillback rockfish in California (Attachment 1). Recommendations from the SSC's Groundfish Subcommittee's review will also be provided.

The Council is scheduled to review the rebuilding analyses and catch-only projections, as well as the advice of the SSC, other advisory bodies, and the public before considering the adoption for use in groundfish management in 2025 and beyond.

### **Council Action:**

**Approve rebuilding analyses, catch-only projections, and revised projections for use in 2025 and beyond, as appropriate.**

### **Reference Materials:**

1. Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 1: DRAFT 2023 Rebuilding Analysis for Quillback Rockfish (*Sebastes maliger*) in U.S. Waters Off the Coast of California Based on The 2021 Stock Assessment.

2. Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 2: Catch Update for Chilipepper Rockfish (*Sebastes goodei*) off the U.S. West Coast.
3. Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 3: Catch-only Projection for Yellowtail Rockfish (*Sebastes Flavidus*) North Of 40° 10' North Latitude off the U.S. West Coast.
4. Agenda Item E.2, Attachment 4: Harvest Specification Projections for Select West Coast Groundfish Stocks in 2025 and Beyond Informed by the Sigmas Implemented in 2020.
5. If received, Public Comments are electronic only ([see e-portal](#)).

Agenda Order:

E.2 Adopt Rebuilding Analyses, Catch-Only Projections, and Revised Projections

Marlene A. Bellman

- a. Reports and Comments of Management Entities and Advisory Bodies
- b. Public Comment
- c. **Council Action:** Adopt Quillback Rebuilding Analyses, Catch-Only Projections, and Revised Projections for 2025 And Beyond

PFMC  
10/11/23